In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for efficiently storing data from a network on a node, comprising:

connecting a first plex to a network device;

connecting a second plex to a data storage device;

grouping the plexes into a logical volume;

receiving data from the network by the first plex; and

storing said data on said storage device by said second plex, wherein said data is directly communicated from a kernel layer of a source node to a kernel layer of a target node.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising configuring said node as a target node for backing up data from said network.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein said first plex is a feed plex for receiving data from a source node.

4. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein said volume is a feed volume for writing data to said plexes.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising configuring said node as a source node for restoring data received from a target node.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein said second plex of said target node is a feed plex for communicating data from said storage device to said logical volume of said target node.

7. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein said first plex of said source node is a feed plex for receiving data from a target node.

8. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein said volume of said source node is a feed volume for writing data to said plexes.

9. (Currently Amended) A computer system, comprising:

a network device;

a data storage device;

a first plex connected to the network device;

a second plex connected to the data storage device; and

a volume connected to the first and second plexes adapted to directly communicate data from a kernel layer of a source node to a kernel layer of a target node.

10. (Original) The system of claim 9, wherein said first plex is a feed plex in a target node to manage backup of data to said volume.

11. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein said volume is a feed volume.

12. (Original) The system of claim 9, wherein said second plex is a feed plex of a target node to manage transfer of data from said storage device to said volume.

13. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein said first plex of a source node is a feed plex to manage restoration of data to said volume of said source node.

14. (Original) The system of claim 13, wherein said volume is a feed volume.

15. (Original) An article comprising:

A computer-readable signal-bearing medium;

means in the medium for connecting a network adapter of a networked computer system to a first plex;

means in the medium for connecting a data storage device of the system to a second plex;

means in the medium for connecting a volume to said first and second plexes; and

means in the medium for managing a direct transfer of data from a kernel layer of a source node to a kernel layer of a target node.

16. (Original) The article of claim 15, wherein the medium is selected from the group consisting of: a recordable data storage medium and a modulated carrier signal.

17. (Original) The article of claim 15, wherein said first plex is a feed plex of a target node and said managing means backs up data from a source node to said target node.

18. (Original) The article of claim 15, wherein said first plex is a feed plex of a source node and said managing means restores data from a target node to said source node.